

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you work to develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we request your continued support for the Campus-Based Student Financial Aid Programs in Title IV of the *Higher Education Act*. The Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Federal Work Study (FWS), and Perkins Loans programs work together with Pell Grants and Direct Student Loans to provide low-income students a manageable balance of grants, loans and work to help pay for college.

We appreciate that during recent tight budget scenarios, the Appropriations Committee has continued to fund SEOG and FWS despite calls for cuts. Now, with increased funding allocations for FY2019, we request that the SEOG program be funded at \$779 million, an increase of \$46 million, and that the FWS program be funded at \$1.01 billion, an increase of \$21 million. Both of these request levels represent the pre-sequester high water mark for funding. We further ask that the Perkins Loan program be reauthorized and maintain its funding so that its structure can be fully considered during the reauthorization of the *Higher Education Act* (HEA).

Campus-based aid programs are the original federal partnerships in higher education. They were created as an incentive for institutions to partner with the federal government to support qualified low-income students attending college. Current federal investment generates more than \$3 billion in grant, work and loan opportunities to ensure students can go to the college that is the best fit for them. Furthermore, the program requires that schools provide a 25 percent minimum match, ensuring they have a financial incentive to promote student success. Many institutions go above and beyond the requirement, especially in grant aid. We must continue to support our institutions and the students they serve.

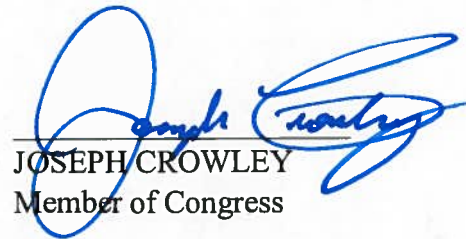
SEOG provides up to \$4,000 in grant aid for the poorest Pell Grant students. Providing low-income students with grant aid, rather than only loans, helps keep them in school and persist to completion. With similar long-term benefits, FWS provides a wide variety of job opportunities on campus for students to work to cover part of their tuition. Having a job on campus is a proven method of keeping low-income students engaged as part of the campus community and

completing their degree on time, a fundamental goal of federal student aid. Furthermore, the experience and values gained from work – something that has long been a point of bipartisan agreement – can only help to ensure that students increase their future earning power, generating a significant return on the investment these programs have made.


With higher spending allocations for FY 2019, the campus-based aid programs can be reinvigorated to become the strong institutional partnership programs to the Pell Grant program they are intended to be. The aid these programs provide to low-income students and families is indispensable in allowing them to attend college without having to borrow or work more to pay for college, which results in increased rates of degree completion.

Thank you for your continued bipartisan support of federal student aid programs.


Sincerely,




JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress




JOHN KATKO
Member of Congress




LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress




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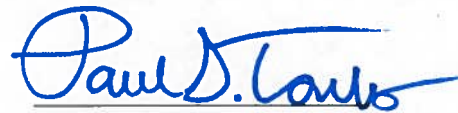
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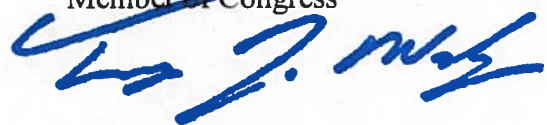
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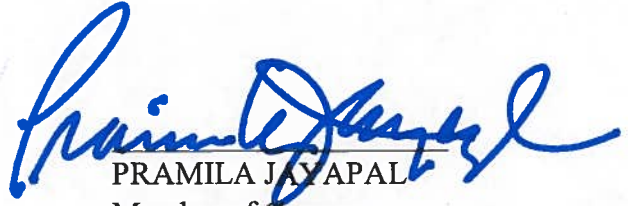
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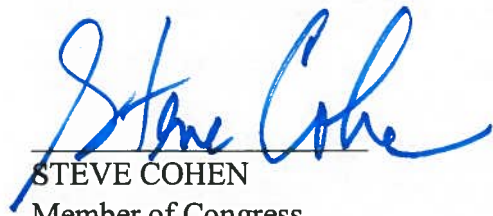
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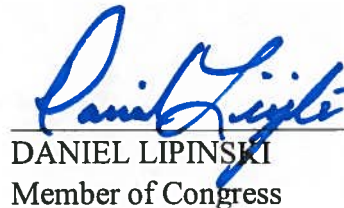
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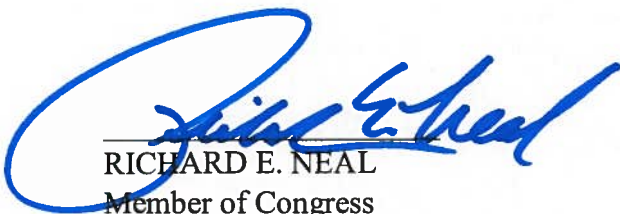
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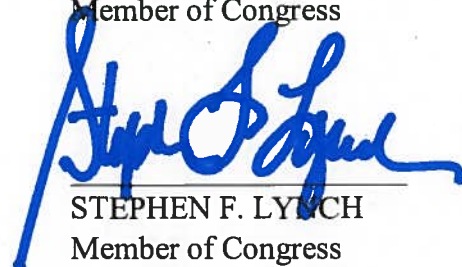
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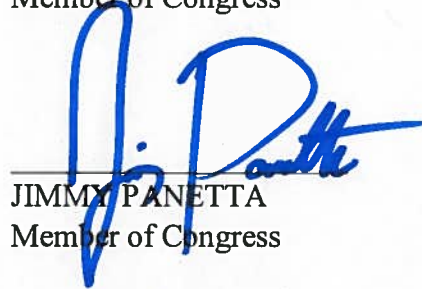
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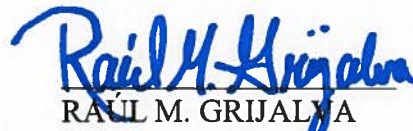
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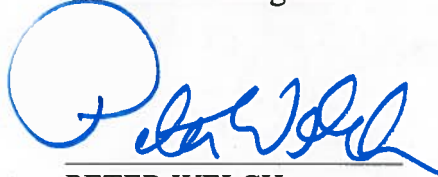
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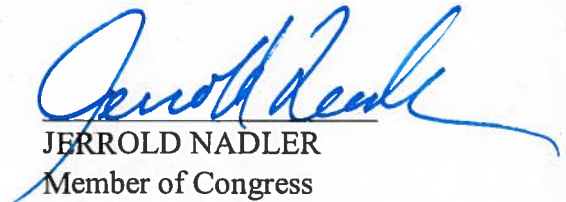
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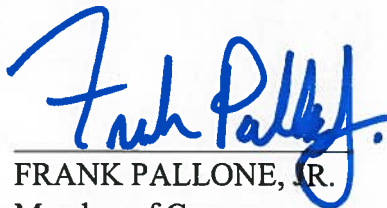
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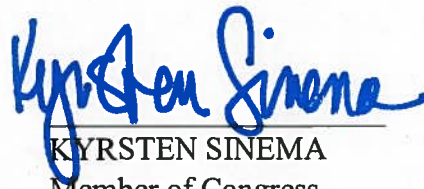
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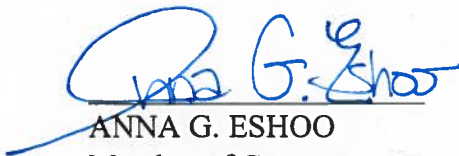
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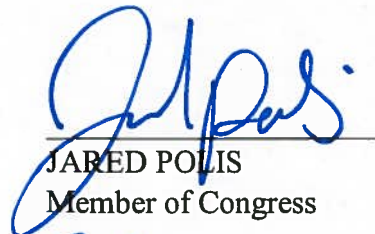
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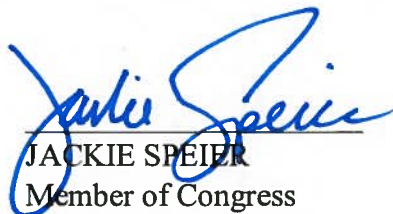
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